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AVIAN HAVEN

Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center



A Few
Favorite Images
of 2016



December, 2016

Dear Friends of Avian Haven,

Another year is almost over! 2016 has brought us another increase in case load and associated costs. But even as we anticipate the challenges ahead, we look back on the weeks and months past, recalling both the birds in our care and also the support that made that care possible. We can't do this work without your help, whether you are giving money, services, supplies, or a planned estate gift.



So with gratitude on behalf of the patients who owe their recovery to your contributions, our small gift to you is the collection of images that follow. We hope you enjoy them!



Some of the more colorful birds we saw this year were male ducks, such as this Long-tailed Duck (left) and Wood Duck (right). Their elegant plumage presumably helps them attract mates!





Stare-down awards this year went to two juvenile raptors — a Northern Goshawk (left) and an Osprey (right).



An Osprey (below left) also won the formidable footwear award. Not even the talons of a Golden Eagle (below right) could compete!





This juvenile Common Raven seemed to be playing with toys!





Feather integrity is an important part of personal hygiene for all birds, but perhaps especially for those that spend significant amounts of time in the water.



Many species, like the Ring-billed Gull above, can preen while on land.



Common Loons roll onto their sides to preen their breast feathers while remaining in the water.



Roll-preening loons often have one foot in the air at an odd angle. Casual observers may believe they have broken legs!

A young Red-tailed Hawk (below) launched his flight with an impressive jump.



Once aloft, a Great-Horned Owl (above) and a Barred Owl (right) showed especially graceful wing spreads.



We try not to say the "cute" word out loud too often, but it's hard to think of young downy birds in any other terms!



Left: two Common Loons share a haul-out. Above: two Barred Owls appear to enjoy sun-bathing.

Many of our young birds benefited from foster parenting; the hen Mallard shown below raised 50 ducklings here this summer.





One of our most devoted foster parents is this male Rock Pigeon, who assumes brooding as well as feeding duties for young orphans.



Pigeons feed their nestlings by regurgitation, but unlike the case in most species, the nestlings put their beaks inside the adults' mouths.



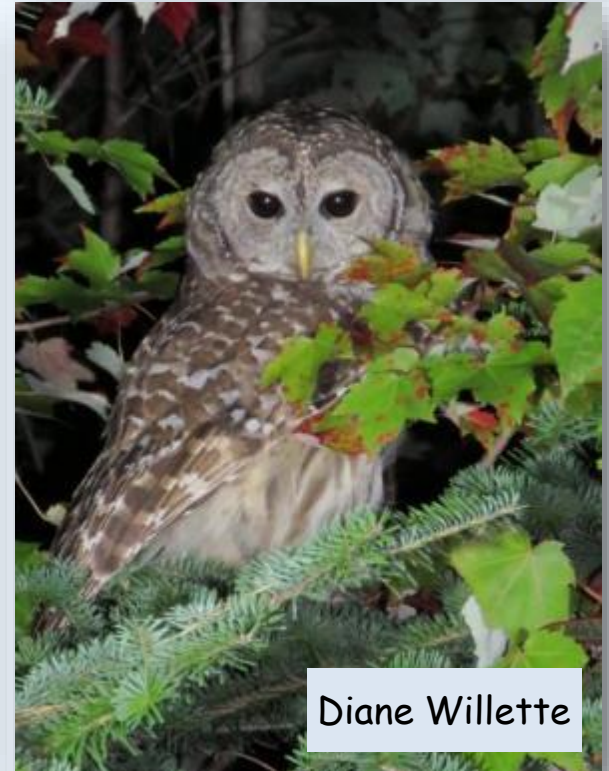


When no conspecifics are available for snuggling, young birds may seek temporary comfort in the proximity of a different species.

Above: a young Wild Turkey burrows under the wing of a juvenile Rock Pigeon. Right: a hatchling Northern Flicker and an American Woodcock share a brief naptime.



Among hundreds of photos, our favorites are those that capture the fulfillment of our mission — the return of birds to the wild, where they were meant to be. Here are just a few of the Barred Owls we released in 2016.



Diane Willette

More Releases:

Mallards swim off into marshes.



Marc Payne



Rock Pigeons join a neighborhood flock.



Karen Silverman



Kathleen Lally

Herring Gulls swim into coastal waters.



Karen Silverman

Ospreys take flight offshore



Bruce Skakle



Carol Jones

Woodpeckers take to the woods.



Northern Flicker



Downy Woodpecker



Pileated Woodpecker

A young Common Loon trades a pool for open ocean.

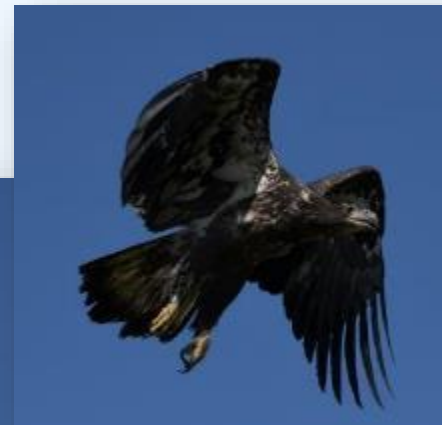




And a young Bald Eagle unfurls
her wings to ride the wind of
the open sky.



Your support makes these moments possible!



May you have a warm,
safe and happy winter,
complete with the longer
days soon to come.



418 N. Palermo Rd.
Freedom, ME 04941

*With appreciation,
Diane and Marc*

Photos are by
Glori Berry or Terry Heitz
unless otherwise noted.

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